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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

6 AUG 1963

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MANAGER, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEM

SUBJECT: Initial Tasks, National Communications System (NCS)

I desire that the Manager, NCS, accomplish the following initial tasks relating to the NCS. Target dates indicated for each task are measured from date of this memorandum.

- a. Task 1. Prepare recommendations for submission by me to the President identifying those national governmental communications assets which should be included now in the NCS as subsystems or components of the NCS and additions which should be considered for later incorporation. Target date - 30 days.
- b. Task 2. Prepare simultaneously recommendations for me regarding which Government Department or Agency should have responsibility for installation, operation, maintenance, modification (including budgeting and funding responsibility) of each subsystem or component identified in a. above. Target date - 30 days.
- c. Task 3. Prepare proposals for organizational arrangements and necessary procedures for the NCS which will accomplish effective allocation, reallocation, and arranging for restoral of circuits and channels and other assets of the NCS to authorized users based on approved requirements and priorities. Target date - 60 days.
- d. Task 4. Prepare a near-term plan for FY 1965 budget guidance and later a long-range plan, recommending objectives, modification and improvement in the NCS as necessary to provide communications for the Federal Government under all conditions ranging from normal situations to international crises and national emergencies, including nuclear attack. Target date for completion of the initial near-term plan is 1 November 1963 and for the initial long-range plan 240 days.

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DOES NOT APPLY

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e. Task 5. Prepare and issue operational guidance which will prescribe the standards and practices governing operation, maintenance and installation of the NCS. Such guidance will include provisions for the maintenance of necessary records to insure effective utilization of NCS resources. Target date for an initial report on accomplishment - 120 days.

f. Task 6. Prepare for my consideration a plan to accomplish assignment of radio frequencies for the NCS and for monitoring radio frequency utilization. Target date - 90 days.

g. Task 7. Prepare for my approval a plan for the exercise and test of NCS effectiveness. Target date for the accomplishment - 120 days.

h. Task 8. Prepare proposals for establishing a realistic priority system to govern reallocating and restoring of circuitry and other assets of the NCS so as best to meet National Government needs in time of an emergency. Target date - 120 days.

i. Task 9. Prepare for my approval a plan and recommend a structure for carrying out research and development essential to the progressive improvement of the NCS. Target date - 120 days.

j. Task 10. Prepare and submit recommended revisions as necessary in organization structure, manpower needs and financial requirements for you to accomplish your responsibilities, this to be based on early consultation and coordination with the Designated Representatives of other operating Agencies. Target date - 40 days.

Robert S. Mc Newman

Copy to:
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

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TAB

August 22, 1963

The Honorable Robert S. McNamara
The Secretary of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bob:

STATINTL In response to your recent letter regarding the National Communications System, I am designating my Director of Communications, [redacted] as my representative to the NCS.

STATINTL In past months General Starbird and [redacted] have been in contact with each other on the subject of establishment of the NCS. As a consequence, a Communications representative of CIA has been working in the DCA building since 1 August 1963. This early participation has already proven fruitful to this Agency by identifying security problems. [redacted] STATINTL [redacted] has notified General Starbird of these problems in a letter dated 9 August 1963 and has met with him to discuss this letter. Both believe that these problems can be resolved without difficulty. A copy of [redacted] letter, which I endorse, is attached for your information.

Sincerely,

Signed: John A. McCone

John A. McCone
Director

Attachment:

Copy of ltr to Gen. Starbird

CDE:cmg

Distrib: 1 - Director of Communications

1 - ER

1 - EA/DCI

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00-1794

9 AUG 1983

Lt. General Alfred D. Starbird
Director Defense Communications Agency
8th and Courthouse Road
Arlington, Virginia

Dear General Starbird:

25X1 As pointed out by [] during the 24 July meeting in Mr. Horwitz's office, the existence of CIA's overseas communications facilities is considered as classified information by the Agency. Over the years properly cleared personnel of the Department of Defense and the Department of State have become knowledgeable of these facilities by virtue of their liaison with the Agency in providing the support that is essential to the efficient operation of it's system. They have also completely respected the emphasis we place on the need for restricting disclosure of this information.

I am concerned, however, that the representatives of other government agencies who will be detailed to DCA to work on the NCS, may not have this same awareness of the need for security, particularly where CIA communications are concerned. I would appreciate therefore, whatever measures you can take to advise these representatives that information which is made available to them for purposes of the NCS, is privileged information which should not be discussed outside the scope of the NCS.

25X1 I am also concerned that a certain amount of publicity will attend the establishment of the NCS. As you can understand, the surfacing of the existence of CIA's overseas communications facilities could have a serious adverse affect

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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Finally, in order to protect Agency operations, it is requested that any documents which disclose Agency presence at an overseas location which is being operated on a classified basis be marked secret and that this classification not be subject to automatic downgrading.

Sincerely,

Director of Communications

25X1

[Handwritten signature]

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